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complained that as a result of recommendation

legislation the Argentine Air Force would be forced to buy non-US equipment. Agosti said he would rather buy from the US and that he hoped new legislation would permit Argentina to purchase the equipment it needs. Ambassador replied suggesting that Argentina could change its image by clarifying the status of people who had disappeared and releasing persons with no direct connection with subversion. The Ambassador urged the GOA to take steps toward a return to the full rule of law, which would significantly improve its image abroad.

- 4. Brigadier X Klix welcomed the Ambassador
  ON NOV 30 CALL
  warmly/and reviewed the close ties the Argentine
  military has had over the years which resulted in
  inventories in all services that are largely US.
  He said over the years hundreds of Argentine officers
  who trained in the US had returned with an
  appreciation of US democracy and now hold important
  positions. Klix said Argentina is not interested
  in aid or FMS credits since the GOA can purchase
  both equipment and training.
- 5. But he said it is essential that the GOA not be denied the opportunity to purchase US equipment,



essential spare parts and training.

- 6. The Ambassador said that despite the problems between the two countries, he was encouraged by the fact that the GOA is XMXXX interested in maintaining a dialogue to seek solutions. Ambassador said, however- that in this post-Vietnam period the concerns of American citizens are being expressed forcefully through the Congress. these concerns is human rights.
- 7. The Ambassador said that while he knew that this subject in Argentina is a sensitive one for a foreigner to address, he WMXXX would make some suggestions which might help improve Argentina's human rights image abroad. Referring to the QUOTE right of option END QUOE, Ambassador suggested that perhaps a relatively large number of detainees XXXX could be permitted to leave without creating a serious threat to the GOA. It has been observed abroad that few, if any, persons have actually been able to exercise the right of option announced several months ago. The Ambassador suggested that Argentina could give MXXXXXXXXXXXX priority to the case of Jacobo Timerman and either convict him in a court of



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law or release him if the A available evidence is not sufficient. The Ambassador added that the release of ex-President Campora could be viewed.

8. Klix agreed that such actions would indeed improve Argentina's image, but that they were not easy for the GOA to take given the brutality engendered by terrorism in Argentina over the last three years. Then Klix told the Ambassador that he thought there could be QUOTE a major development END QUOTE on the human rights front before Christmas. The implication was that some detainees would be released.

CASTRO COSTA

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